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TWO GRIZZLY CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS TO COMPETE IN NCAA, USTFF MEETS NEXT WEEK

MISSOULA---

A pair of University of Montana cross country aces will have a busy Thanksgiving week as they compete in two national meets in the New York City area.

Wade Jacobsen, sophomore from Simms who was undefeated in 1968 cross country action, and Ray Velez, junior from San Bernadino, Calif. who finished second behind Jacobsen at the Big Sky Conference Championships this fall, left Missoula Friday morning for New York with UM Coach Harley Lewis.

By placing first and second in the league run, Jacobsen and Velez qualified to run Monday in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's University Division race, hosted by Manhattan College of New York City.

The NCAA event will feature approximately 250 runners, according to Lewis, and will be six miles in length.

Jacobsen and Velez will run on the same course when they compete in the United States Track and Field Federation Championships hosted by St. John's University of New York City. Lewis said the field would be large for this race, also.

"Of course, based on his season record, Wade has the best chance to show well in each of these races," Lewis said. "But if Velez's improvement shown at the conference meet is any indication, he could be a surprise."

Lewis plans to do some recruiting work while in New York with his two runners.